



Oaklea Woodcrafts

Candlestick Safety

Introduction

This guide is targeted at small scale 'cottage industry' ; or home producers of candles and there holder [Candlesticks] who sell directly to consumers. It is not possible to include every thing within a concise document, nor can any topic be given any great depth of detail, so please contact your local trading Standards or the British Candle Federation with any concerns or queries. It is your responsibility to know about and trade within the law, but this is a very difficult and technical area of law for any new entrants into the industry. <http://www.britishcandles.org> for further information.

Producers and distributors have for many years been obliged by product safety legislation to provide information and warnings as to the risk their products posed where these risks were not obvious and where necessary, to provide instructions adequate to consumer needs as to the safe operation/use of the product. The General Product regulations 2005 maintain that requirement. The following standards are currently not called up in specific legislation but may assist with demonstrating due diligence under the General Product Safety Regulations 2005.

Fire damage caused by candles can be attributed to improper use by the consumer. The risk of fire can be minimised by suitable warnings to the consumer. In September 2007 the labelling requirements of candles changed due to the publication of European Standard BS EN 15494:2007 - Candles - Product Safety Labels.

This standard specifies the format and content of product warning labels for indoor candles. The standard requires that all information supplied with a candle is presented in a clear format on the product and should be easily and non-verbally comprehensive. Such warnings may be on the product or packaging itself or available as a separate leaflet if appropriate.

It is a requirement that the General Warning Sign be included in all labelling, preferably in a coloured graphic. In addition under the standard there are four mandatory safety messages which must be Included on all labels (table one). The warning message may be given as a pictogram or as text. If text is used, it must be in the language of the country where the candles are being sold.

In addition to the minimum safety information as outlined above, the standard encourages the use of optional safety information where appropriate.

This advice is designed to provide basic guidance enabling a good designed warning notice to be produced, for traders to be included with there products. It is not a complete or authoritative statement of the law.

Example of label that can be included with Candlesticks



Warning!

To prevent fire and serious injury, Burn candle within sight. Keep away from drafts and vibrations. Keep out of reach of children and pets. Never burn candle on or near anything that can catch fire.

Burning Instructions:

Trim wick to 5mm before lighting. Keep candle free of any foreign materials including matches and wick trimmings. Only burn the candle on a level, fire resistant surface. Do not burn the candle for more than 4 hours at a time.